

On the origin and composition of Galactic cosmic rays

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ABSTRACT

Context. The composition of Galactic Cosmic Rays (GCR) presents strong similarities to the standard (cosmic) composition, but also noticeable differences, the most important being the high isotopic ratio of $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$, which is ~ 5 times higher in GCR than in the Sun. This ratio provides key information on the GCR origin.

Aims. We investigate the idea that GCR are accelerated by the forward shocks of supernova explosions, as they run through the presupernova winds of the massive stars and through the interstellar medium.

Methods. We use detailed wind and core yields of rotating and non-rotating models of massive stars with mass loss, as well as simple models for the properties of the forward shock and of the circumstellar medium.

Results. We find that the observed GCR $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio can be explained if GCR are accelerated only during the early Sedov phase, for shock velocities $> 1500\text{-}1900 \text{ km/s}$. The acceleration efficiency is found to be of the order of $10^{-6}\text{-}10^{-5}$, i.e. a few particles out of a million encountered by the shock escape the SN at GCR energies. We also show quantitatively that the widely publicized idea that GCR are accelerated in superbubbles fails to account for the high $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio in GCR.

Key words. Cosmic rays - acceleration of particles - abundances

1. Introduction

Supernova (SN) shocks are generally thought to be the main accelerator of the bulk of Galactic Cosmic Rays (GCR). Indeed, the power of GCR in the Milky Way is estimated to 10^{41} ergs/s , corresponding to 10-20 % of the kinetic power of Galactic supernovae (assuming canonical values of 2 SN per century, each one releasing 10^{51} ergs of kinetic energy).

The site of the acceleration of GCR remains debatable today, despite more than five decades of theoretical and observational studies (e.g. Strong et al. 2007 and references therein). Over the years, it has been suggested that GCR are accelerated in 1) SN remnants (either by the forward or the reverse shock or both), 2) the interstellar medium (ISM), 3) the winds of massive stars, 4) the interiors of superbubbles, excavated by the massive star winds and the subsequent SN explosions of an OB association.

Each one of the proposed sites has its own advantages and shortcomings, regarding the energetics and/or the composition of accelerated matter. For instance, it has been argued that the hot, low density environment of a superbubble minimizes radiative losses of SN shocks and energy losses of accelerated particles, thus allowing the latter to reach substantial energies, up to the "knee" of the GCR spectrum (e.g. Parizot et al. 2004). On the other hand, reverse SN shocks running into the SN interior carry insufficient energy to explain the bulk GCR energetics (Ramaty et al. 1997). Moreover, they should accelerate ^{59}Ni , a product of explosive nucleosynthesis which is unstable to e^- -capture (with a lifetime of 10^4 yr) and which has not been detected in GCR (Wiedenbeck et al. 1999), while a rapid acceleration would render it practically stable and thus detectable.

It was realized early on that the *elemental* composition of GCR differs significantly from the one of the ISM. Those

differences may provide valuable information on the origin of GCR particles and, perhaps, on the site - and even the mechanism - of acceleration. Volatiles behave differently from refractories: the former display a mass-dependent enrichment with respect to H, which reaches a factor of 10 for the heaviest of them; the latter are all overabundant (w.r.t. H) by a factor of 20, while C and O display intermediate overabundances, by factors of 9 and 5, respectively (e.g. Wiedenbeck 2007 and references therein).

This complex pattern is now thought to result not from ionization effects (as suggested in Cassé and Goret 1978, and further developed by Meyer 1985) but rather from effects related to elemental condensation temperature (Meyer et al. 1997): refractories are locked in dust grains, which are sputtered by repeated SN shocks and the released ions are easily picked-up and accelerated (Ellison et al. 1997). This, quite elaborate, scheme, which builds on earlier ideas by e.g. Cesarsky and Bibring (1981), accounts quantitatively for most of the observed features of GCR source composition; still, it leaves unanswered the key issue about the acceleration site of GCR (and how it affects the composition of accelerated matter).

The most conspicuous feature of GCR source composition is undoubtedly the high isotopic $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio. Its value was measured since the late 1970ies (Garcia-Munoz, Simpson and Wefel 1979, Wiedenbeck and Greiner 1981). The most accurate measurement today, obtained from analysis of the CRIS instrument, leads to a best estimate (Binns et al. 2008) of 0.387 ± 0.007 (statistical) ± 0.022 (systematic). This is 5.3 ± 0.3 times the value of the $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_\odot$ ratio in the solar wind. Contrary to the case of the elemental source GCR abundances, which may be affected by various physico-chemical factors (first ionization potential, condensation temperature, etc.) isotopic ratios can only be

affected by nucleosynthetic processes and thus provide crucial information on the origin of cosmic ray particles. It should be noticed that up to now there is now clear evidence for any other GCR isotopic ratio to differ from solar, with the potential exception of $^{58}\text{Fe}/^{56}\text{Fe}$, which is estimated to 1.5 ± 0.3 times solar (Binns et al. 2008).

Soon after the discovery of the anomalous GCR $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio, Cassé and Paul (1982) suggested that it could be explained by a mixture of $\sim 2\%$ of material from the wind of a WC star to 98% of material with standard composition. In early He-burning, ^{14}N (produced through the CNO cycle in the previous H-burning phase) is transformed almost totally in ^{22}Ne through $^{14}\text{N}(\alpha, \gamma)^{18}\text{F}(\beta^+)^{18}\text{O}(\alpha, \gamma)^{22}\text{Ne}$. He-burning products (like ^{12}C and ^{22}Ne) are expelled by the stellar winds of massive stars during their WC phase. The observed GCR $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio is obtained by assuming dilution of WC material with matter of standard composition. Subsequent studies put the aforementioned idea on a quantitative basis, with the use of detailed models of the evolution and nucleosynthesis of massive, mass losing stars (Maeder 1983, Prantzos 1984, Meyer 1985, Prantzos et al. 1987). In those studies, the acceleration site of GCR was considered as decoupled from the nucleosynthesis site, and unrelated to the fraction of admixed WC material.

Higdon and Lingenfelter (2003) evaluated quantitatively the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio within a superbubble, created by the collective action of stellar winds and SN shockwaves. They adopted stellar wind yields for ^{20}Ne and ^{22}Ne from the models of Schaller et al. (1992) and SN yields from the models of Woosley and Weaver (1995). They found that the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio in the superbubble decreases with time (since ^{22}Ne from the winds dominates the evolution of $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ at early times) and that its time average value is compatible with the GCR source $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ inferred from observations. In a subsequent paper, Lingenfelter and Higdon (2007) recognised that the Schaller et al. (1992) yields of ^{22}Ne were highly overestimated¹ and, consequently, "... new detailed calculations of the expected GCR isotopic ratio are called for...", but they did not attempt such a re-evaluation. In the meantime, Binns et al. (2005), using updated wind yields of massive stars with rotation (from the Geneva group, see Sec. 2.2), found good agreement between the observed $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio and an admixture of $\sim 20\%$ material from WR stars with 80% material of standard composition. According to Binns et al. (2008), since WR stars are evolutionary products of OB stars, such an agreement "...suggests that OB associations within superbubbles are the likely source of at least a substantial fraction of GCR".

However, theoretical studies in the past 10 years are based mostly on the paradigm of GCR being accelerated in SN remnants, not in superbubbles, e.g. Ptuskin & Zirakashvili (2005), Berezhko & Völk (2006), Berezhko et al. (2009), Ptuskin et al. (2010), Caprioli, Amato & Blasi (2010), Schure et al. (2010), Ellison & Bykov (2011) and references therein. The kinetic energy of the bulk motion of the forward shock of the SN explosion is converted to GCR energy through diffusive shock acceleration. The process is highly non-linear and involves the dynamical

reaction of both the accelerated particles and of the magnetic field on the system. Those studies usually take into account the fact that the SN explosion often occurs within the cavity excavated in the interstellar medium (ISM) by the wind of the massive star prior to the explosion (Biermann et al. (2001)); however, the structure of the circumstellar environment in that case is quite complex and simplified models are used for its description. Although Caprioli et al. (2011) considered the composition of GCR (H,He, CNO, MgSiAl, Fe) resulting from such an acceleration site, none of those studies considered the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio.

In this work we study the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio of GCR accelerated by the forward shocks of SN explosions, as they run through the presupernova winds of massive stars and through the interstellar medium. We consider the whole mass spectrum of massive stars (from ~ 10 to $120 M_{\odot}$), including stars with either small or large mass losses prior to their explosions. We consider stellar properties (masses of winds, ejecta, yields etc.) from recent models with mass loss and or without rotation (from Hirschi et al. 2005 and Limongi and Chieffi 2006, respectively), the former having larger ^{22}Ne enhancements in their winds. We adopt a simplified prescription (suggested in Ptuskin and Zirakashvili 2005 and reformulated in Caprioli 2011) to describe the structure of the circumstellar medium at the time of the explosion and we consider that GCR start being accelerated in the Sedov-Taylor (ST) phase of the SN remnant (see e.g. Ptuskin et al. 2010). By requiring the resulting IMF averaged $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio to equal the observed one $R_{\text{Obs}} = (^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{\text{GCR}} / (^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{\odot} = 5.3 \pm 0.3$ we are able to constrain the forward shock velocity to values > 1900 km/s for rotating stars (and to > 2400 km/s for non rotating ones), i.e. we find that GCR are accelerated during the early ST phase, lasting for a few 10^3 yr. Assuming that 10% of the SN kinetic energy is converted to GCR, we find that during the acceleration period a few particles out of a million encountered by the forward shock are accelerated. Finally, we reassess the superbubble paradigm for the origin of GCR, by evaluating consistently the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio with the aforementioned stellar yields. We find that it can not be as high as observed, unless some extremely favorable assumptions are made (only the early period of the superbubble lifetime considered, no gas left over from the formation of the OB association). We conclude that superbubbles cannot be at the origin of the bulk of GCR.

The plan of the paper is as follows. In Sec. 2 we present the general "set-up" of our model: the adopted stellar models (Sec. 2.2) and their wind yields (Sec. 2.3), the description of the circumstellar environment (Sec. 2.4) and the evolution of the forward shock in the ST phase (Sec. 2.5). In Sec. 3 we present our results for the (time-dependent) composition of the accelerated particles, the limits imposed on the shock velocity by the observed $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio and the efficiency of the particle acceleration. Finally, in Sec. 4 we explore the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio of GCR, assumed to be accelerated inside a superbubble, and we show that it cannot match the observed one (unless extreme assumptions are made). The results are summarized in Sec. 5.

¹ The reason was the excessively high mass loss rates adopted in that work.

2. A toy model for the composition of CR accelerated in massive star winds

2.1. The set-up

The method adopted here in order to calculate the composition of matter accelerated by a single SN explosion is schematically illustrated in Fig. 1. At the end of its life and at the time of its SN explosion, a star of initial mass M_* is left with a mass M_{Exp} , surrounded by a circumstellar shell of mass $M_{Wind}=M_*-M_{Exp}$, which has been lost through stellar wind during its prior hydrostatic evolution. After the SN explosion, a mass of ejecta $M_{Ej}=M_{Exp}-M_{Rem}$ (where M_{Rem} is the mass of the compact remnant, neutron star or black hole) expands first within the shell of mass M_{Wind} and then in the ISM, with the forward shock having initial velocity $v_0=\sqrt{2E_0/M_{Ej}}$, where E_0 is the kinetic energy of the SN explosion.

In the case of stars ending their lives as WR stars, the wind contains both the original (nuclearly unprocessed) envelope of mass M_{Env} , and nuclearly processed layers of mass M_{Proc} , enriched in products of H-burning, and in some cases of He-burning as well. For those stars, $M_{Wind}=M_{Proc}+M_{Env}$ and M_{Proc} is calculated as the difference between the mass of the nuclearly processed core M_{HeC} and the mass at the explosion: $M_{Proc}=M_{HeC}-M_{Exp}$. For lower mass stars, exploding as red supergiants, the wind composition results essentially from the 1st dredge-up, i.e. it is a mixture of H-burning products from the stellar core with the original envelope composition (i.e. mass loss has not uncovered the He-core at the time of the explosion). The limit between the two classes of stars depends on their initial mass, mass loss rate and rotational velocity and it is rather poorly known at present: in general, in models with no rotation stars with $M_* > 32-35 M_\odot$ become WR stars e.g. (Heger et al. 2002), while in models with rotation that limit may be as low as $22 M_\odot$ (Meynet and Maeder 2000).

The first phase of the supernova remnant ("free expansion") takes place at shock velocity $v \sim const.$ and ends when a mass $M_{S1} \sim M_{Ej}$ has been swept up in front of the shock wave, at which point the ST phase sets in. Following Ptuskin et al. (2010), we assume that efficient GCR acceleration starts at this time, where the situation is energetically most favorable. In our baseline model we shall consider constant acceleration efficiency ; time-dependent efficiency of particle acceleration is the subject of current researches (see Ellison and Bykov 2011, Drury 2011, and references therein) and will be briefly discussed in Sec. 3.3.

The ST phase proceeds adiabatically, i.e. at \sim constant energy and with decreasing velocity, until the temperature of the gas engulfed by the shock front drops to levels allowing a significant fraction (about 50%) of the remaining energy to be radiated away. At that time, an amount of matter $M_{S2} > M_{Ej}$ has been swept up and the shock enters the "snow-plow" phase. At this point - and, perhaps, even earlier, during the ST phase - the forward shock is too weak to accelerate particles to GCR energies any more.

In the aforementioned scenario, GCR are accelerated from a pool of particles with composition characteristic of the mass M_{Wind} early on. Depending on the initial stellar mass, this composition may be rich in products of H- (and He-) burning. It is progressively diluted with ambient (first wind - with normal ^{22}Ne - and then interstellar) gas and at the end of the ST phase it ressembles closely the one of

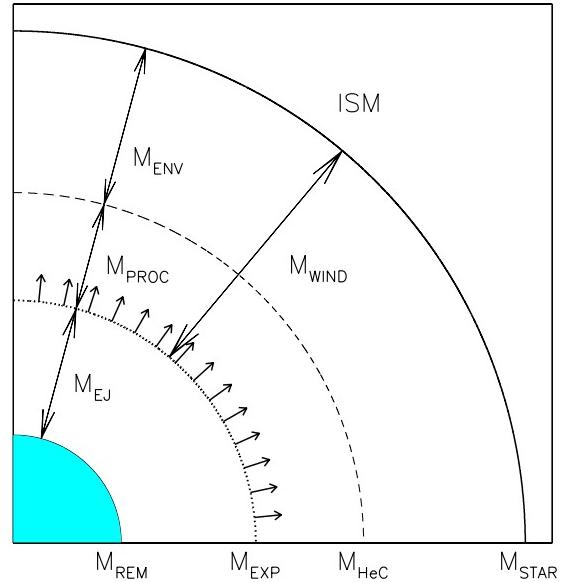


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of a supernova exploding in the wind of its parent star. The star, of initial mass M_* explodes with a mass M_{Exp} , i.e. it has lost a mass $M_{wind}=M_*-M_{Exp}$. The most massive stars become WR stars and their wind expels not only the H-envelope (of mass M_{Env} , with composition similar to the one of the ISM) but also nuclearly processed layers, of mass M_{Proc} , i.e. $M_{Wind}=M_{Env}+M_{Proc}$, where $M_{Proc}=M_{HeC}-M_{Exp}$ and M_{HeC} is the mass of the (H-exhausted) He-core. The star leaves a remnant (neutron star or black hole) of mass M_{Rem} ; the mass ejected in the SN explosion is $M_{Ej}=M_{Exp}-M_{Rem}$. Efficient GCR acceleration presumably starts at the beginning of the ST phase, when a mass $M_{S1} \sim M_{Ej}$ is swept up in front of the SN shock wave (which is indicated by arrows).

the ISM. The GCR source composition observed on Earth should correspond to the average composition between the early ST phase and some later evolutionary stage of the remnant, and should result from the whole mass spectrum of exploding stars, i.e. it should be averaged over a stellar initial mass function (IMF).

2.2. Properties of mass losing stars

We adopt two sets of stellar models in this work. They are calculated for stars of solar metallicity, and in both cases the solar mixture of Anders and Grevesse (1979) is adopted. The corresponding metallicity is $Z_\odot=0.019$, substantially larger than more recent values (Lodders 2003, Asplund et al. 2010) and this difference results in particular from the reduction in the past decade of the solar abundances of C, N, O and Ne, which are key elements for the purpose of this work. For obvious consistency reasons, we keep here the Anders and Grevesse (1979) values, when comparing our results for GCR to solar ones.

The first set of stellar models is the one of the Frascati group (Limongi and Chieffi 2006, hereafter LC06). It concerns 15 model stars between 11 and $120 M_\odot$ with mass loss but no rotation. The model includes all stages of hy-

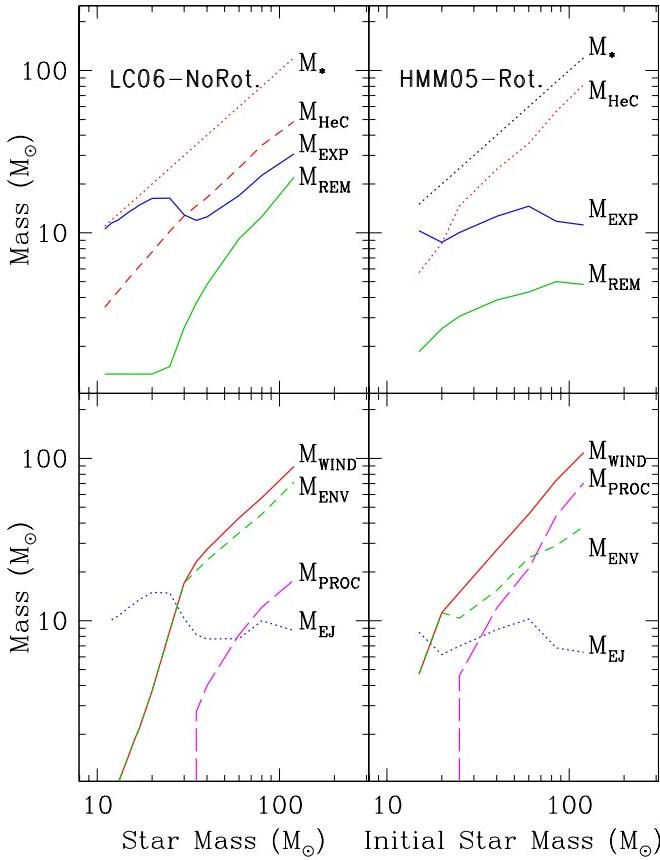


Fig. 2. Input data adopted in this work, for solar metallicity massive stars with mass loss. *Left:* non rotating models from Limongi and Chieffi (2006); *Right:* Rotating models from Hirschi, Meynet and Maeder (2005). *Top:* Mass of the (H-exhausted) He core M_{HeC} , of the star at explosion M_{Exp} and of the compact remnant M_{Rem} as a function of the initial stellar mass M_* . *Bottom:* derived quantities are the mass of the wind $M_{Wind}=M_*-M_{Exp}$, the mass of the nuclearly processed layer $M_{Proc}=M_{HeC}-M_{Rem}$ and of the unprocessed (^{22}Ne -normal) envelope $M_{Env}=M_{Wind}-M_{Proc}$ and the mass of the SN ejecta $M_{Ej}=M_{Exp}-M_{Rem}$. In all cases, curves are smoothly interpolated between model results.

drostatic nuclear burning and simulates the final stellar explosion by imparting an initial velocity to a mass coordinate of $1 M_\odot$ (i.e. well inside the Fe core of the stars); the mass cut (the limit separating the ejecta of mass M_{Ej} from the compact remnant of mass M_{Rem}) is chosen such as $0.1 M_\odot$ of ^{56}Ni is ejected by the explosion.

The various masses involved in the "toy model" of Sec. 2.1 and Fig. 1 are provided in Table 2 of LC06 and are displayed in Fig. 2 (*top left*) of this work, whereas derived quantities are displayed in Fig. 2 (*bottom left*). It can be seen that stars with $M_* < 20 M_\odot$ have lost a negligible amount of mass prior to the explosion ($M_{Wind} < M_{Ej}$) and the ST phase starts within the ambient ISM. Stars with $M_* > 30 M_\odot$ have $M_{HeC} > M_{Exp}$, i.e. they explode as WR stars, having expelled nuclearly processed layers in their winds. But only for the most massive stars ($M_* > 60 M_\odot$) one has $M_{Ej} < M_{Proc}$, i.e. in the beginning of the ST phase

the shock wave still expands into material with composition reflecting the one of the nuclearly processed core; for lower mass stars ($30 < M_*/M_\odot < 60$) the ST phase starts when the shock wave encounters material with mixed composition from the core and the envelope, i.e. less enriched in H- and He- burning products. An interesting feature of those models is that the mass of the ejecta $M_{Ej} \sim 10 M_\odot$, is similar for all of them, leading to similar properties (duration, swept-up mass) for their corresponding ST phases.

The second set of stellar models is the one of the Geneva group, calculated by Hirschi, Meynet and Maeder (2005, hereafter HMM05) and includes both mass loss and rotation for stars with mass between 12 and $60 M_\odot$; it has been complemented with results for stars of 85 and $120 M_\odot$, kindly provided by G. Meynet (private communication). The initial rotational velocity is $v_{Rot}=300$ km/s on the ZAMS, corresponding to an average velocity of 220 km/s on the main sequence, i.e. close to the average observed value. Non-rotating models with the same physical ingredients (for convection, mass loss, etc.) have also been calculated, for comparison. The evolution has been calculated to the end of Si-burning but the final SN explosion was not considered. Instead, an empirical prescription was used to evaluate the mass of the compact remnant. The masses of our "toy model", as given in Table 2 of HMM05, are displayed in Fig. 2. There is an important difference with respect to Table 2 of HMM05: they provide the mass of He-core at the time of the explosion and for the most massive stars this coincides with M_{Exp} (i.e. the mass left to the star at explosion is smaller than the maximum extent of the He-core); however, we are interested at the true value of M_{HeC} (since this will determine how much mass of processed material the shock wave will encounter) and that value is obtained through the detailed results of HMM05 (displaying the wind composition as a function of time - or of mass left).

Comparing the results of LC06 and HMM05 one sees that rotation increases the mass loss (M_{Wind} larger in HMM05), thus leaving the star with a smaller mass at explosion (M_{Exp} smaller in HMM05). Rotation also increases the size of nuclearly processed regions (M_{HeC} larger in HMM05), since matter is rotationally mixed outwards to larger distances than achieved through convection. In turn, this leads to larger amounts of processed material M_{Proc} for the HMM05 models.

The aforementioned features of rotating vs non-rotating models, which are explained in detail in e.g. Maeder and Meynet (2000) are crucial in understanding the differences in the corresponding wind yields of the stars.

2.3. The wind composition of massive stars

LC06 provided (private communication) yields y_i of all stable nuclear species, from H to Ge, included in their models and ejected through the winds of the stars, up to the moment of the explosion. HMM05 provide (Table 3 in their paper) the net yields $y_{n,i}$ of the winds of their models for stable species from ^3He to ^{23}Na , from which the yields can be recovered through

$$y_i(M_*) = y_{n,i}(M_*) + M_{Wind} X_{\odot,i} \quad (1)$$

where the adopted solar values $X_{\odot,i}$ are displayed in Table 1 of HMM05.

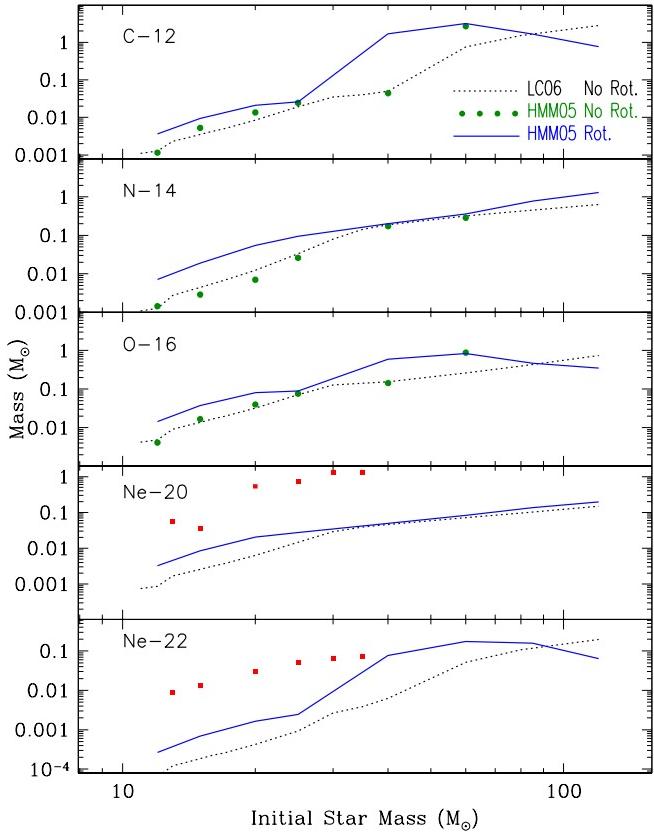


Fig. 3. Total masses of selected isotopes in the winds of the massive stars, from the two sets of models adopted in this work. Solid curves are yields from HMM05 (with rotation) and dotted curves from LC06 (no rotation), in both cases interpolated between model results. The points correspond to results of the HMM05 models with no rotation and, in general, agree well with LC06 results except for the $60 M_{\odot}$ star.

The wind yields of a few selected species appear in Fig. 3, for the non-rotating models of LC06 and for both the non-rotating and the rotating models of HMM05. It can be seen that, in general, there is excellent agreement between the results for non-rotating models of LC06 and HMM05, for stars up to $40 M_{\odot}$. Their results differ only for the $60 M_{\odot}$ model (and presumably for higher masses as well) and only for the cases of the He-burning products ^{12}C , ^{16}O and ^{22}Ne . Since both HMM05 and LC06 use the same prescriptions for mass loss, the reason of that discrepancy could be the use of a small amount of overshooting in the case of HMM05.

Rotation has a twofold effect on stellar yields: it increases the size of the nuclearly processed layers (since it mixes material further than convection alone) and reduces the escape velocity in the stellar equator, allowing larger amounts of mass to be ejected in the wind. Both effects enhance the wind yields up to some mass limit; above it, the wind has removed so much mass, that less material is left in the star to be processed in subsequent stages of the evolution, thus reducing the corresponding yields. This is the case, for instance, with the He-burning products ^{12}C and ^{22}Ne , the yields of which decrease above $\sim 60 M_{\odot}$ in

the rotating HMM05 models (see Fig. 3 and HMM05 for details).

In the following we assume that the wind interaction with the ISM has not substantially changed the wind stratification: the forward shock will first encounter the innermost wind layers, containing processed material in the case of the most massive stars; later it will encounter the outer wind layers (containing mostly the initial composition), before running into the ISM. Fig. 4 displays the *mass integrated composition of the wind* (for a few key metals), as encountered by the forward shock, moving outwards from M_{Exp} , in the case of two rotating model stars of $25 M_{\odot}$ and $60 M_{\odot}$ (from HMM05). The quantity

$$m_i(M) = \int_{M_{Exp}}^{M_*} X_{Wind,i}(M) dM \quad (2)$$

is displayed as a function of mass coordinate M , $X_{wind,i}(M)$ being the mass fraction of isotope i in the wind of star of mass M_* . Obviously, one has $m_i(M_{Exp})=0$. and $m_i(M_*)=y_i(M_*)$, i.e. at crossing the last (outermost) wind layer, the forward shock has encountered the totality of the yield $y_i(M_*)$.

An inspection of Fig. 4 shows that:

- in the case of the $25 M_{\odot}$ star (no He-burning products encountered by the shock wave), the innermost layers contain most of the ^{14}N produced by the CNO cycle (its mass increases slowly in the outermost layers), and little of ^{12}C and ^{16}O , which are depleted by the CNO cycle (their mass increases rapidly in the outermost layers); ^{20}Ne and ^{22}Ne are little affected by H-burning and their integrated wind mass increases in a way intermediate between the cases of ^{14}N and ^{12}C .

- in the case of the $60 M_{\odot}$ star (He-burning, then H-burning products encountered by the shock wave), the quasi-totality of the ^{12}C and ^{22}Ne produced by He-burning are encountered in the inner layers (inside $\sim 25 M_{\odot}$), while essentially no ^{14}N is left in that region; the majority of ^{14}N is found in the region $25 < M/M_{\odot} < 50$ while substantial ^{16}O is found in the unprocessed envelope (beyond $50 M_{\odot}$). Finally, ^{20}Ne is little affected everywhere ($\sim \text{const. mass fraction}$) and its integrated mass rises regularly with the wind mass of the star.

If detailed information (i.e. wind composition as function of wind mass coordinate) is available, the composition of the material swept-up by the forward shock can be calculated in a consistent way. In case only the wind yields y_i and the various characteristic masses of Fig. 2 are available, one may adopt the following approximations:

- (i) Stars never reaching the WR stage ($M_* < 22 M_{\odot}$ for rotating models and $M_* < 34 M_{\odot}$ for non rotating ones) have their envelopes fully mixed after the 1st dredge-up episode in the red supergiant phase; the wind composition is then simply obtained as:

$$X_{wind,i}(M_*) = \frac{y_i(M_*)}{M_{Wind}(M_*)} \quad (3)$$

- (ii) Stars reaching the WR stage eject first their unprocessed envelope of mass M_{Env} and composition $X_{env,i}=X_{ISM,i}$ and then the innermost processed layers of mass M_{Proc} and composition $X_{PROC,i}$ such that

$$y_i(M_*) = X_{Env,i}M_{env}(M_*) + X_{Proc,i}M_{Proc}(M_*) \quad (4)$$

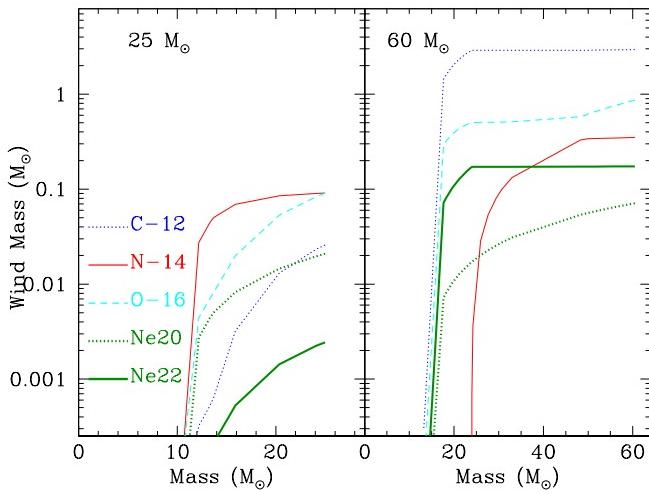


Fig. 4. Composition encountered by the forward shock wave as it moves (from left to right) through the winds of $25 M_{\odot}$ (left) and $60 M_{\odot}$ (right) rotating stars. The shock wave starts at $M_{Exp}=10 M_{\odot}$ and $14.8 M_{\odot}$, respectively, and the ST phase sets in when a mass $M_{S1}=M_{Exp}$ has been swept up and, presumably, well mixed. The quantities displayed correspond to the mass integrated composition of the wind, starting at M_{Exp} .

which allows one to derive $X_{Proc,i}$, i.e. an average abundance in the processed layers, and obtain thus an average wind composition profile

$$X_{Wind,i}(M) = X_{Proc,i}(M_*) \text{ for } M_{Exp} < M < M_{HeC} \quad (5)$$

$$X_{Wind,i}(M) = X_{Env,i}(M_*) \text{ for } M_{HeC} < M < M_* \quad (6)$$

The method outlined here turns out to provide a good approximation for the detailed composition profiles of the HMM05 models and has been used here for both sets of LC06 and HMM05 models, for consistency reasons. Taking into account all the uncertainties of the models (prescriptions for mass loss, convective and rotational mixing etc.), we consider the aforementioned approximation as fairly satisfactory for the purpose of this work.

2.4. The circumstellar environment of massive stars

According to the ideas outlined in Sec. 2.1 particle acceleration to GCR energies starts when a mass $M_{S1} \sim M_{Ej}$ has been swept-up by the forward shock. The composition of that material, at the very beginning of particle acceleration, is the one of the material located at mass coordinate $A_1=M_{Exp}+M_{Ej}$ and constitutes obviously an extreme for the abundances of the corresponding elements (upper limit for those produced in the stellar interior and lower limit for those destroyed, like H). In the following we shall assume that at the time of the explosion the stellar wind has fully kept the stratification of its various layers, as they were progressively leaving the stellar surface.

The circumstellar region hit by the forward shock has a complex structure, depending on the properties of the exploded star. That structure has been explored in some detail with hydrodynamical models by Garcia-Segura et al. (1996a,b) for non-rotating stars. In the case study of a $35 M_{\odot}$

star, they find that the rapid wind of the O star excavates a large bubble (radius ~ 36 pc) of low density (10^{-3} cm^{-3}). Inside it propagates a dense ($\sim 1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$), slow wind - released during the red supergiant phase - which occupies the innermost few pc (depending on its assumed velocity, of the order of a few tens of km/s). The subsequent fast ($\sim 10^3$ km/s) WR wind compresses the RSG wind, and most of the mass of the latter is found within a thin shell.

The aforementioned study illustrates the complexity of the situation, but its results can hardly be generalized to the whole mass range of massive stars (for instance, lower mass stars will not display the fast WR wind). In fact, its results cannot even be safely used for the $35 M_{\odot}$ star, since they depend so critically on the adopted parameters of the model (mass loss rates and wind velocities for the various stages). And they certainly fail to describe the situation for rotating stars, which display slow but intense (and not radially symmetric) mass losses on the Main sequence.

In view of these uncertainties, we adopt here a simplified prescription for the structure of the circumstellar bubble, assuming spherical symmetry in all cases. We assume that the winds have excavated a bubble of mean density $\rho_0=0.01 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and, consequently of radius

$$R_B = \left(\frac{3 M_W}{4\pi \rho_0} \right)^{1/3} \quad (7)$$

with $\rho_0=n_0 m_p$, m_p being the proton mass. Inside the bubble, the density profile is $\rho(r) \propto r^{-2}$, i.e. it corresponds to a steady stellar wind with mass loss rate M_W and velocity v_W , which is given by

$$\rho(r) = \frac{\dot{M}_W}{4\pi v_W r^2} \quad (8)$$

Our choice of ρ_0 automatically fixes the $\rho(r)$ profile and corresponds to a combination of \dot{M}_W and v_W values. Obviously, one has

$$M_W = \int_0^{R_W} \rho(r) dr \quad (9)$$

Outside R_W we assume an ISM with constant density $\rho_{ISM}=1 m_p \text{ cm}^{-3}$. Our approach is similar to Caprioli (2011), but we do not consider here the more complicated case of a WR wind overtaking a RSG wind.

2.5. Evolution during the Sedov-Taylor (ST) phase

We follow the propagation of the forward shock first through the wind bubble and then through the ISM with a simple model presented in Ptuskin and Zirakashvili (2005) and, in a more concise form, in Caprioli (2011, his eqs. 3.4 to 3.9). We start the calculation from the "free-expansion" (ejecta dominated) phase, where the swept-up mass is smaller than M_{Ej} and which can be described by self-similar analytical solutions. In the subsequent ST phase (swept up mass $< M_{Ej}$), the model is based on the "thin shell" approximation (e.g. Ostriker and McKee 1988) which assumes that the swept up mass is concentrated in a thin shell behind the shock. We solve numerically the time-dependent equations for continuity of mass, energy and momentum, to recover shock radius and velocity as a function of time. Unlike Caprioli (2011) we assume full adiabaticity

in the ST phase, i.e. we do not take into account the 10-20% energy losses of the shock through CR acceleration, which would reduce the shock velocity ($\propto E_0^{0.5}$) by less than 10%. The mass swept up in the ST phase inside shock radius R_S is

$$M_S(< R_S) = M_{EJ} + 4\pi \int_{R_{S1}}^{R_S} \rho(r)r^2 dr \quad (10)$$

We follow the evolution all the way through the ST phase, which ends when a significant fraction of the energy of the cooling remnant is radiated away (through recombination emission); for a solar mixture this occurs at time

$$t_{S2} \sim 4.4 \cdot 10^4 \text{ yr} \left(\frac{E_0}{10^{51} \text{ erg}} \right)^{2/9} \left(\frac{n_{ISM}}{\text{cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-5/9} \quad (11)$$

In the framework of this simple model we are able to calculate the composition of the material encountered (and presumably accelerated) by the forward shock as a function of time, or of the swept-up mass: indeed, the integrated mass of each element swept up by the forward shock is given by an equation similar to Eq. 2

$$m_i(M_S) = \int_{M_{exp}}^{M_S(< R_S)} X_i(M_S) dM_S \quad (12)$$

where $X_i(M_S) = X_{wind,i}$ for $M_S < M_*$ (Sec. 2.3) and $X_i(M) = X_{ISM,i}$ for $M_S > M_*$, i.e. when the shock propagates in the ISM; the upper limit in the integral is given by eq. (10).

Eq. 12 allows one to link the stellar model, i.e. the abundance profiles $X(M)$, to the evolution during the ST phase through Eq. 10, and to the properties of the shock wave. Since the mass M_{S2} swept-up in the end of the ST phase is much larger than the wind mass in all cases (a few $10^3 M_\odot$, compared to $\sim 100 M_\odot$ at most) for the largest part of the ST phase the swept up material has ISM composition. In order to obtain significant deviations from the solar composition, such as the observed $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio, one should assume that *significant acceleration occurs only in the early ST phase*, when the forward shock is stronger and its velocity higher.

3. Results

3.1. Composition of matter in the ST phase

Fig. 5 (top) displays the evolution of the velocity v_S and radius R_S of the forward shock and of the mass $M_S(< R_S)$ swept up by it, for the cases of a $20 M_\odot$ and a $60 M_\odot$ rotating star, respectively. The density of the unperturbed ISM is taken to be 1 cm^{-3} in all cases.

The similarity of the curves for v_S , R_S and $M_S(< R_S)$ for the $20 M_\odot$ and $60 M_\odot$ stars simply reflects the self-similarity of the ST solution. The small differences in the early ST phase are due to the difference of the ejected mass M_{EJ} in the two stars (6 vs $10 M_\odot$, see Fig. 2), since the other parameters (E_0 and n_{ISM}) are the same.

The bottom panel of Fig. 5 displays the evolution of the $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratios (i.e. the ratios of the corresponding masses of Eq. 12 for each isotope), expressed in units of the corresponding solar values. In both cases, the forward shock first encounters layers with low ^{16}O and high ^{14}N , resulting in a high $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio (in the $60 M_\odot$ star,

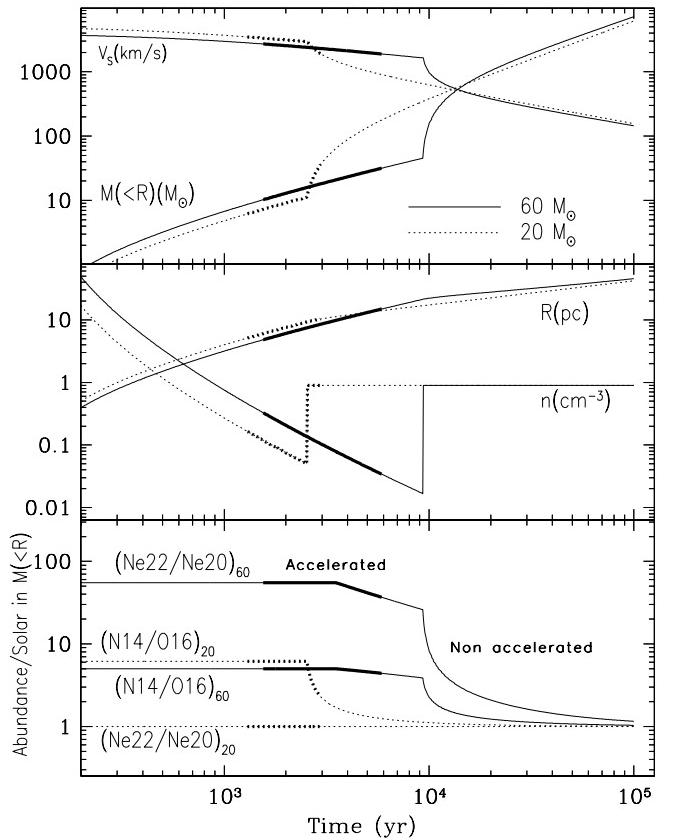


Fig. 5. Evolution of the SN remnants of two rotating stars of initial masses $20 M_\odot$ (dotted) and $60 M_\odot$ (solid), respectively. *Top:* velocity of the forward shock and swept up mass. *Middle:* Shock radius and density profile before shock arrival (see text). *Bottom:* Composition of the matter swept up up to time t by the shock wave, for the $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratios. In all panels, the thick portions of the curves indicate the period of efficient particle acceleration, i.e. from the beginning of the ST phase and as far as $v_s > v_{min}$. The value of v_{min} ($= 1900 \text{ km/s}$ for the rotating star models in the figure) is chosen so that the IMF averaged theoretical ratio of $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ matches the observed one in GCR (see text, Eq. (13) and Fig. 6).

^{14}N is depleted from He-burning in the innermost layers, resulting in a slightly smaller $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio than in the $20 M_\odot$ case. Subsequently, in the $20 M_\odot$ star the shock moves rapidly through the small remaining stellar envelope ($3.4 M_\odot$) and starts propagating in the ISM, thus decreasing rapidly its mass-integrated $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio. In the $60 M_\odot$ star, the shock runs through $\sim 20 M_\odot$ of processed material, with a high value of $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$, before getting to the ISM; the corresponding $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratio decreases more slowly than in the $20 M_\odot$ case.

The evolution of $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ is quite different in the two models. In the $20 M_\odot$ star, no He-burning products are encountered by the shock wave and the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio has always its initial (solar) value. A high $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio is initially encountered in the processed layers of the $60 M_\odot$ star, which is progressively diluted as the shock moves outwards.

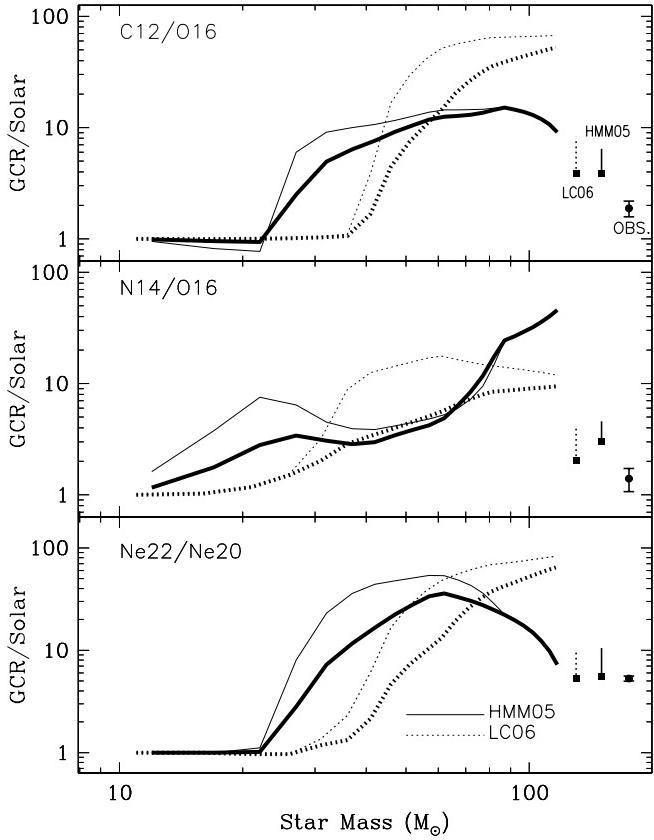


Fig. 6. Abundance ratios of various nuclear species in GCR source normalized to the corresponding solar ones, as a function of the initial stellar mass. In all panels, *solid curves* correspond to models of HMM05 and *dotted curves* to models of LC06. *Upper, thin curves* are for GCR accelerated at the beginning of the ST phase and *lower, thick curves* for the time-average at the end of GCR acceleration. An average over a Salpeter IMF (and accounting for the swept up mass in each case) produces the vertical segments to the right, their top point corresponding to the beginning and the bottom one to the end of the GCR acceleration phase, respectively (also indicated by *filled squares*). These results are compared to GCR source abundance ratios as derived by ACE data (points at the extreme right with error bars) in Binns et al. (2005). The most significant, unaffected by FIP, volatility etc., is the one of $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$. The end of the GCR acceleration phase is assumed to correspond to shock velocities v_{min} such that the time and IMF averaged theoretical ratio (squares) of $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ matches the observed one (see text). For the set up adopted here we find we find $v_{min}=1900$ km/s for HMM models and $v_{min}=2400$ km/s for LC06 models.

3.2. Composition of accelerated particles

The composition curves of the bottom panel of Fig. 5 give the time (or mass) integrated composition encountered by the shock wave and, in consequence, the composition of the particles that have been accelerated *up to that time*. We assume here that *particles are accelerated to GCR energies with the same efficiency for shock velocities higher than some critical value v_{min} , which is the same for all*

stellar masses. We determine v_{min} empirically by requiring that, when averaged over a stellar Initial mass function (IMF) $\Phi(M_*)$, the ratio

$$\frac{M_{22}}{M_{20}} = \frac{\int_{10M_\odot}^{120M_\odot} dM_* m_{22}(M_*) \Phi(M_*)}{\int_{10M_\odot}^{120M_\odot} dM_* m_{20}(M_*) \Phi(M_*)} = R_{Obs} \frac{X_{22,\odot}}{X_{20,\odot}} \quad (13)$$

where $R_{Obs}=5.3 \pm 0.3$ is the observationally determined source GCR ratio of $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ in solar units and $m_{22}(M_*)$ and $m_{20}(M_*)$ are calculated from Eq. 12 for stars of mass M_* and for swept up masses $M_S(v > v_{min})$.

We adopt here a Salpeter IMF $\Phi(M_*) \propto M_*^{-X}$ with $X=2.35$. The results of the procedure appear in Fig. 6 for a few selected abundance ratios and for the models of both HMM05 (*solid curves*) and LC06 (*dotted curves*). In all panels, the upper (*thin*) curves correspond to the composition accelerated at the beginning of the ST phase (maximal possible deviations from solar composition). It can be seen that stars with mass $< 22 M_\odot$ (for HMM05) and $32 M_\odot$ (for LC06) display no He-burning products in their accelerated particles. N is overabundant in lower stellar masses, due to the 1st dredge-up.

The lower (*thick*) curves in all panels of Fig. 6 correspond to composition accelerated *up to the end of the acceleration period* which is assumed to occur for a shock velocity v_{min} . The corresponding IMF-averaged quantities (between 10 and $120 M_\odot$) are displayed on the right of the curves: their uppermost point corresponds to the beginning of the ST phase and the lower one (also indicated with a *filled square*) to the end of the acceleration period, i.e. to v_{min} . The value of v_{min} is found to be ~ 1900 km/s for the HMM05 models with rotation and $\sim 20\%$ higher (2400 km/s) for the LC06 models without rotation. The reason for that difference is, of course the fact that rotating models have larger processed layers, requiring more dilution with circumstellar material.

The top and middle panels of Fig. 6 display the corresponding ratios for $^{12}\text{C}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$, respectively. In both cases, the IMF averaged ratios are higher than the observed ones in GCR (which are, in their turn, higher than solar), by factors of 1.5-2. Unlike $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$, these are ratios of different elements, having different atomic properties. GCR source abundances are known to be affected by atomic effects, e.g. First Ionization Potential (FIP), or, perhaps more plausibly, volatility and mass/charge ratio (see extensive discussion in Meyer et al. 1997). The analysis of such effects is beyond the scope of this study. We simply notice here that observations indicate that refractory elements are relatively more abundant in GCR sources than volatiles. Meyer et al. (1997) attribute that to the fact that refractories are locked up in grains, which are sputtered by the shock wave and the released ions are easily picked up and accelerated. ^{16}O being more refractory than both ^{14}N and ^{12}C , it is expected that its abundance in GCR source will be enhanced by that effect, and the corresponding $^{12}\text{C}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios in GCR source will be lower than predicted from stellar nucleosynthesis alone. The fact that in Fig. 6 we obtain higher than observed ratios for $^{12}\text{C}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$ is encouraging in that respect, since the aforementioned atomic effects would lower those ratios, hopefully to their observed values².

² One might think that a combined analysis of the $^{12}\text{C}/^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{14}\text{N}/^{16}\text{O}$ ratios of Fig. 6 could help to constrain the atomic

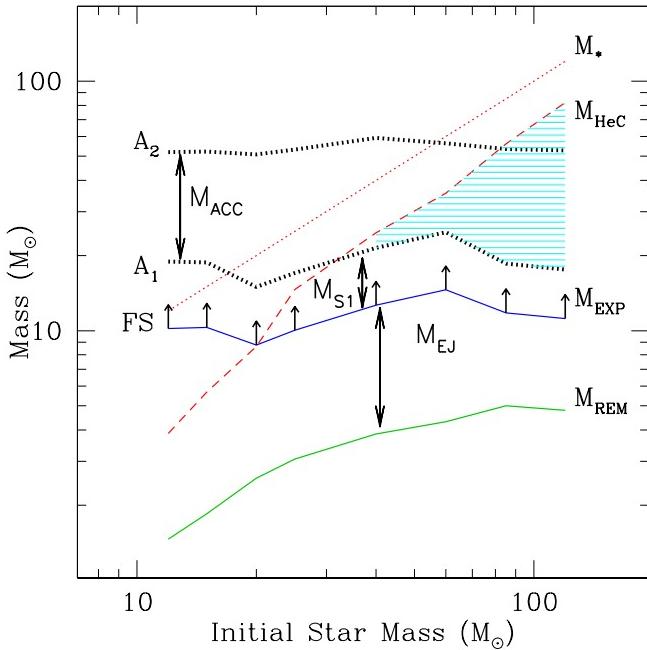


Fig. 7. Graphical presentation of the results discussed in Sec. 3.3. Particle acceleration starts at the beginning of the ST phase, located at mass coordinate $A_1 = M_{Exp} + M_{Ej}$, i.e. when the forward shock (*FS, arrows*), launched at M_{Exp} , has swept up a mass $M_{S1} = M_{Ej}$. Acceleration stops at mass coordinate A_2 , corresponding in the case discussed here to a shock velocity of 1900 km/s. The mass sampled by the FS between those two regions is $M_{Acc} = A_2 - A_1$. For rotating stars with mass $M > 30 M_\odot$, an increasing part of M_{Acc} includes nuclearly processed material (*shaded area*), while for rotating stars with $M < 18 M_\odot$, M_{Acc} contains only material of ISM (=solar) composition.

3.3. Efficiency of particle acceleration

The material of Sec. 3.1 and 3.2 is summarized in Fig. 7 for the rotating models of HMM05. The forward shock, launched at mass coordinate M_{Exp} , sweeps up a mass $M_{S1} \sim M_{Exp}$ and then starts accelerating particles, at mass coordinate $A_1 = M_{Exp} + M_{S1}$, up to point A_2 (where its velocity becomes v_{min}). For rotating stars with $M < 15 M_\odot$, A_1 lies beyond the stellar surface and only ISM is accelerated. In stars with $15 < M_* / M_\odot < 25$, A_1 lies beyond the processed/mixed interior M_{HeC} and the forward shock accelerates first envelope and then ISM material. For stars above $35 M_\odot$, the shock first accelerates processed material (hatched area), then the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ normal - envelope and then ISM. Finally, for stars with $M > 70 M_\odot$, particle acceleration ends when the shock is still within the massive stellar envelope.

The mass of circumstellar material from which particles are accelerated is $M_{Acc} = A_2 - A_1$ and lies in the range

processes shaping the GCR source abundances. However, the abundances of ^{12}C and ^{16}O are affected by the still uncertain value of the $^{12}\text{C}(\alpha, \gamma)^{16}\text{O}$ reaction rate and are unsuitable for such a study.

$30\text{-}40 M_\odot$. The mass of particles that have been accelerated is given by

$$m_{AP} = \sum N_i A_i m_P \quad (14)$$

where N_i is the total number of nuclei of species i , A_i the corresponding mass number and m_P the proton mass. The number N_i , or rather the product $N_i A_i$ can be determined by noticing that the total energy carried by those accelerated particles is a fraction f of the kinetic energy E_0 of the supernova

$$\sum N_i A_i \int_0^\infty E Q(E) dE = f E_0 \quad (15)$$

where $Q(E)$ is the spectrum of accelerated particles (A_i appears on the left side of Eq. 15 because energies are expressed in energy units *per nucleon*). The efficiency f of conversion of E_0 to accelerated particles *escaping the supernova* is estimated to $f \sim 0.1$, while another 0.1-0.2 goes to the acceleration of particles which are finally trapped in the SN (Ellison and Bykov 2011). The particle spectrum is often described by a power law in momentum

$$Q(E) \propto \frac{p^{-s}}{\beta} \exp(-E/E_0) \quad (16)$$

where $\beta = v/c$ is the velocity expressed as a fraction of the light velocity, p is the particle momentum per nucleon, the factor s is usually $2 < s < 3$ (in the case of strong shocks) and E_0 is a cut-off energy, here taken to be 3 TeV (the results are insensitive to much higher values).

Assuming that the spectrum of accelerated particles escaping the SN is given by Eq. 16, one finds the efficiency with which particles are accelerated from the shocked circumstellar medium, through Eq. 14 to 16:

$$W = \frac{m_{AP}}{M_{Acc}} \quad (17)$$

and for rotating stars it is found to be in the range $3\text{-}6 \cdot 10^{-6}$ i.e. a few particles out of a million encountered ones are accelerated by the forward shock to GCR energies. In the case of non-rotating stars, the energetics is the same, but the swept-up mass is smaller (by a factor of two, on average, in order to get the observed $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio) and the corresponding efficiency is $W \sim 10^{-5}$. These estimates constitute only a gross average, since the efficiency of particle acceleration may depend on several factors, not considered here, like e.g. the density of the circumstellar medium or the shock velocity - through a smoothly varying function $f(v_S)$ instead of the Heavyside function $f(> v_{min})=1$ and $f(< v_{min})=0$ considered here - or the shock radius at the time of acceleration, since particles may subsequently suffer adiabatic cooling before escaping (e.g. Drury 2011, Bykov and Ellison 2011). Notice that some of those effects may have opposite time dependencies. For instance, particles accelerated earlier on (at higher shock velocities and presumably with higher efficiencies) are expected to suffer more from adiabatic cooling (because they are produced at smaller radii). These effects require a much more thorough investigation. As a first step towards that direction, we also tested the case where the efficiency of shock acceleration varies with shock velocity as $f \propto v^2$ (Drury 2011). In that case, material with high $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ is efficiently accelerated in the inner layers of the most massive stars. In

order to obtain again the observed GCR source $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio, one has to dilute the mixture by allowing acceleration for shock velocities lower than the reference values found above: we thus find values of $v_{min}=1600$ km/s for the HMM05 yields and 2150 km/s for the CL06 yields; the corresponding overall acceleration efficiencies increase then by $\sim 40\%$ from the reference values given above, ranging from $4\text{-}7 \cdot 10^{-6}$ for HMM05 yields to $1\text{-}1.4 \cdot 10^{-5}$ for CL06 yields. The reason for obtaining such a small difference (only a few hundreds of km/s) between the non-realistic reference case and the - perhaps more realistic - case of velocity dependent efficiency, is the adopted unified treatment, which considers acceleration in both low mass and high mass supernova: the former accelerate almost pure ISM with low $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ and the latter almost pure wind material with high $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$. Allowing for lower values of v_{min} involves a considerably larger amount of ISM processed by low mass supernovae, since the lower acceleration efficiency ($f \propto v^2$) is more than compensated by the $n_{ISM}4\pi r^2 dr$ factor.

As approximate as they may be, the results obtained here through the constrain of the observed GCR source $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio, indicate clearly that acceleration has to occur for shock velocities larger than ~ 1500 km/s, and they may help to improve our understanding of particle acceleration in SN remnants.

4. GCR cannot be accelerated (mainly) in superbubbles

The idea that CGR are accelerated mainly in superbubbles has been suggested by Kafatos et al. (1981) and reassessed by Higdon et al. (1998). Massive stars are mainly formed in OB associations and the winds of the most massive of them initiate the formation of superbubbles, while the subsequent SN explosions power the expansion of those superbubbles for a few 10^7 years. Higdon et al. (1998) argued that the environment of such superbubbles, enriched with the ejecta of stellar winds and core collapse SN explosions, provides a composition that compares favourably to the inferred GCR source composition.

One potential problem with that idea is that ^{59}Ni , a well known product of SN nucleosynthesis, is absent from GCR arriving on Earth (Wiedenbeck et al. 1999). Since ^{59}Ni is unstable to electron capture, with a lifetime of $\sim 10^5$ y, Higdon et al. (1998) argued that SN explosions occur within the superbubble with a sufficiently low frequency (less than one SN every $3 \cdot 10^5$ y), as to allow for the decay of ^{59}Ni between two SN explosions. Prantzos (2005) pointed out that energetic stellar winds can also accelerate particles and they are not intermittent (like SN) but occur continuously in superbubbles; in that case ^{59}Ni is continuously accelerated to GCR energies and, being unable to capture an electron, it becomes effectively stable and it should be detectable in GCR. Binns et al. (2008) counter-argued that the period of energetic WR winds represents a small (albeit not negligible) fraction in the early lifetime of an OB association and therefore only little (and presumably undetectable) amounts of ^{59}Ni would be accelerated, thus saving the "superbubble paradigm".

In the meantime, Higdon and Lingenfelter (2003) evaluated the isotopic composition of $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ - the critical abundance anomaly in GCR - expected in a superbubble, based on (a very heterogeneous set of) then available yields

of WR stars and SN. They found that the GCR $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio "...can be easily understood as the result of GCR accelerated primarily out of superbubbles with a mean metallicity $Z_{SB}=2.7\pm 0.4 Z_\odot$..." and that this result "... provides strong, additional evidence for a superbubble origin of GCR". In a subsequent paper, Lingenfelter and Higdon (2007) explored quantitatively that scenario for other GCR abundances, finding again that results compare favourably to observations.

Despite their apparent sophistication, the aforementioned arguments for a superbubble origin of GCR miss a simple point: *massive stars are the principal source of both ^{20}Ne and ^{22}Ne in the Universe*. As a result, the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio of a generation of massive stars (integrated over an IMF and including WR winds and all kinds of SN ejecta) should be solar³. Since ^{22}Ne is overabundant with respect to ^{20}Ne only in the massive star winds (and not in the SN ejecta or the ISM), a popular exercise in the past 30 years or so consisted in evaluating the mixing ratio of WR ejecta with SN ejecta (or with average ISM), as to obtain the observed $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio in GCR. (see Introduction and references therein).

However, it is expected that a properly weighted mixture of the ejecta of massive stars in a superbubble (i.e. including stellar winds and SN ejecta and folded with a stellar IMF) would produce a solar $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio. In this section, the same exercise is repeated with the yields of CL05 and HMM05 and by taking into account the corresponding stellar lifetimes. In Fig. 8 we present again the adopted ^{20}Ne and ^{22}Ne yields of LC06 and HMM05 for the stellar winds (solid and dotted curves, i.e. the same as in Fig. 3) and also the total yields (winds plus SN ejecta, points). The latter are from LC06 for stars with mass loss (but no rotation) and from Woosley and Weaver (1995, WW95) for stars without mass loss; they are in good overall agreement, except for ^{20}Ne in stars around $20 M_\odot$. For the SN ejecta, we consider only stars with $M < 40 M_\odot$, i.e. we assume that more massive stars eject their ^{20}Ne and ^{22}Ne through their winds and then form black holes; in that case we maximize the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio expected from massive stars.

An inspection of Fig. 8 shows that the total (SN) ^{22}Ne yields of $M < 40 M_\odot$ stars are comparable to the wind ^{22}Ne yields of the most massive ($\sim 100 M_\odot$) stars; however, the corresponding total ^{20}Ne yields of $M < 40 M_\odot$ stars are at least 10 times larger than the wind ^{20}Ne yields of the most massive ($\sim 100 M_\odot$) stars. Thus, while the production of ^{22}Ne receives a sizeable contribution from the most massive stellar winds (at least for the rotating stars), the production of ^{20}Ne is totally dominated by the SN ejecta of $M < 40 M_\odot$ stars. In a coeval stellar population, like the one expected in an OB association or a superbubble, the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio will evolve then from higher than solar to \sim solar values, as the $M < 40 M_\odot$ stars eject their core products a few Myr after their more massive counterparts.

We quantitatively illustrate this effect in Fig. 9, where we present the evolution of a stellar population born at time $t=0$ with a Salpeter IMF and total mass of $1 M_\odot$ (results can be directly scaled to masses of OB associations, while

³ Strictly speaking, this concerns massive stars of roughly solar metallicity, such as those that contributed to the composition of the solar system; however, metallicity has evolved very little in the past several billion years in the local volume of $\sim 1\text{-}2$ kpc radius, where most GCR originate.

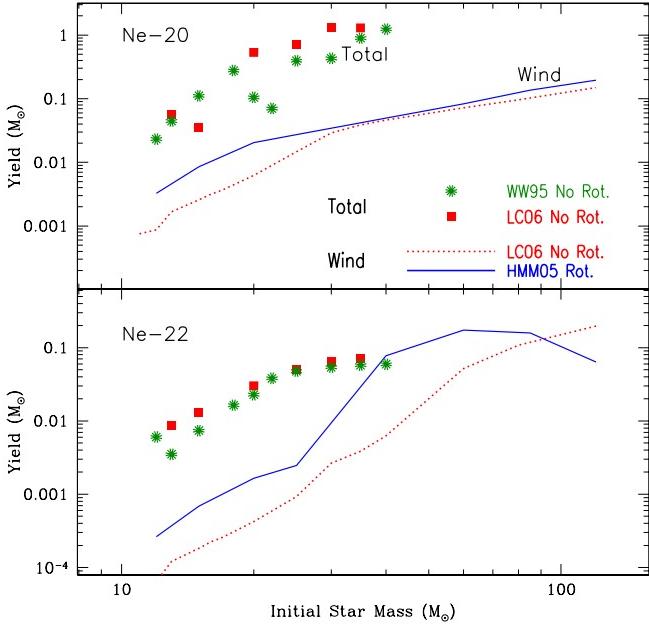


Fig. 8. Yields of ^{20}Ne (top) and ^{22}Ne (bottom) as a function of the initial stellar mass. Wind yields are from HMM05 (solid curves) and LC06 (dotted curves), respectively (same as in Fig. 3). Total yields are from LC06 (filled squares) and WW95 (asterisks).

abundances and abundance ratios remain the same). The top right panel displays the rate of SN explosions; for a total stellar mass of 10^4 M_\odot , resulting in a ~ 100 OB stars, there are about 3 SN/Myr, i.e. ~ 1 SN every 300 000 yr, as evaluated in Higdon et al. (1998) in order to avoid the problem of ^{59}Ni acceleration. The top left panel displays the ejection rates of ^{20}Ne and ^{22}Ne (in $\text{M}_\odot/\text{Myr}$ per M_\odot of stars formed) : ^{22}Ne from stellar winds dominates only for a couple of Myr but ~ 5 Myr after the stellar formation, ^{20}Ne from $M < 40 \text{ M}_\odot$ explosions dominates. Notice that, in order to maximise the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio, we adopted only the yields of HMM05 for these calculations (i.e. corresponding to the solid curves in Fig. 8 with only wind yields above $M=40 \text{ M}_\odot$).

The instantaneous $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{SB}$ ratio in the superbubble at time t is the ratio of the amounts of ^{20}Ne and ^{22}Ne cumulated up to that time, which are provided in the middle panels of Fig. 9. In order to evaluate those quantities, one needs to make an assumption about the amount of pre-existing gas still left inside the superbubble. In the left middle panel of Fig. 9 it is assumed that no gas is left after star formation: gas is exclusively supplied by the wind and explosive stellar ejecta. In that case, ^{22}Ne dominates early on, but ^{20}Ne takes over after a couple of Myr. In the right middle panel it is assumed that an amount of gas with solar composition and equal to 20% of the mass of formed stars remained in the superbubble; the stellar ejecta are diluted into it and the superbubble composition is now dominated always by ^{20}Ne .

The bottom panels of Fig. 9 display the corresponding $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{SB}$ ratios in the superbubble. In the case of zero initial gas (left), the instantaneous $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{SB}$ ratio remains high - from 18 to 5 times solar - for a couple of

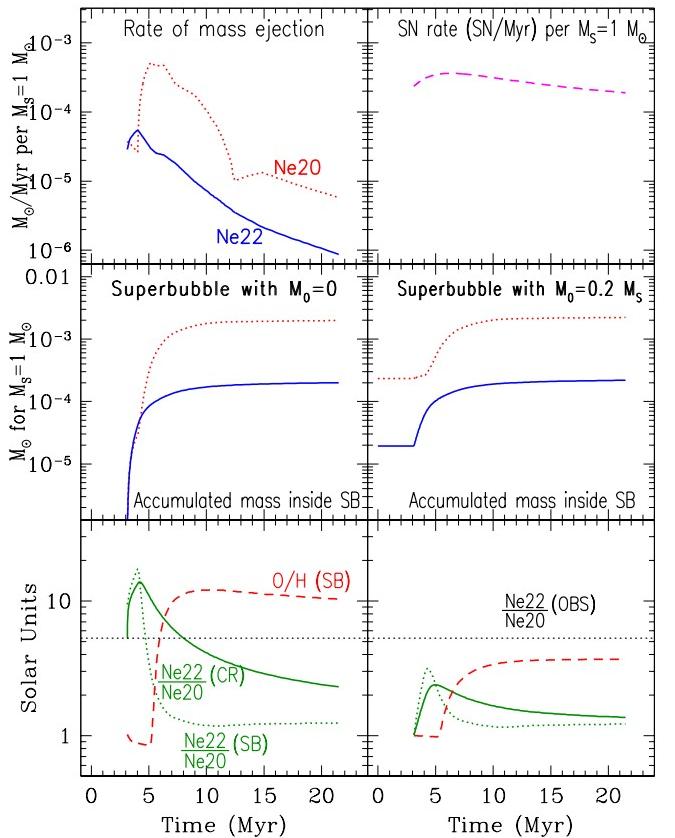


Fig. 9. Evolution of composition in a superbubble. Top left: Ejection rate of ^{20}Ne (dotted) and ^{22}Ne (solid) in $\text{M}_\odot/\text{Myr}$ per 1 M_\odot of stars formed (assuming a Salpeter IMF between 0.1 and 120 M_\odot). Top right: Supernova rate per Myr. Middle: Total mass of ^{20}Ne (dotted) and ^{22}Ne (solid) accumulated in the superbubble, in case there was no initial gas ($M_0=0$, left) and in the presence of an initial mass of gas equal to $1/5$ of the formed stars ($M_0=0.20$, right); in the former case ^{22}Ne dominates by mass early on, whereas in the latter the mass of ^{20}Ne dominates from the very beginning. Bottom: Corresponding evolution of the O/H (dashed) and of the $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{SB}$ ratio (dotted) in the SB gas; the (solid curve represents the $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{CR}$ ratio of particles accelerated up to that time and has to be compared to the observed GCR source ratio (dashed horizontal line).

Myr, but soon after stars of $M < 40 \text{ M}_\odot$ start dying its value goes rapidly to solar (as expected from the nucleosynthesis argument presented in the beginning of this section). The $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{CR} (< t)$ ratio of particles accelerated to CR energies up to time t is the time integral of the instantaneous $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{SB}$ ratio in the superbubble

$$\left(\frac{^{22}\text{Ne}}{^{20}\text{Ne}} \right)_{CR} (< t) = \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t \left(\frac{^{22}\text{Ne}}{^{20}\text{Ne}} \right)_{SB} dt' \quad (18)$$

where it is assumed that the efficiency of particle acceleration does not vary with time. $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{CR} (< t)$ represents the mean CR composition accelerated by a superbubble which "operates" up to time t .

In the bottom left panel it is seen that the $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{CR} (< t)$ ratio (in solar units) remains above

the observed $R_{Obs}=5.3\pm0.3$ for about 7 Myr, while it declines steadily after that, tending to an asymptotic value of ~ 2 , considerably smaller than observed. The corresponding metallicity in the superbubble, expressed by the O/H ratio (dashed curve), is quite high - about 10 times solar - since it represents pure core collapse SN ejecta; such high metallicity values have never been reported for any astrophysical environment (except SN remnants).

The bottom right panel of Fig. 9 displays the corresponding quantities in the more realistic case of a superbubble endowed with some gas left over from the star formation. In that case, although metallicity is still high (about 3 times solar after 7 Myr), the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratios never get above 3 times solar, either in the superbubble or in the accelerated particles; in fact they are close to solar for the largest part of the superbubble lifetime.

The results displayed in Fig. 9 suggest that the observed $R_{Obs}=5.3\pm0.3$ ratio in GCR cannot be obtained from material accelerated in a superbubble: even under the most favorable possible conditions, such as those adopted here (yields from *rotating* massive stars, only wind yields considered above $M=40 M_\odot$, no gas left over from star formation), the resulting $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio remains at high values only in the early evolution of the superbubble, during a small fraction of its lifetime. It is interesting to notice in that respect that Binns et al. (2008) suggested that *no substantial particle acceleration must occur during that early period*, in order to avoid the problem of ^{59}Ni acceleration from the WR winds; thus, saving the "superbubble paradigm" for the origin of cosmic rays, requires that acceleration occurs only in the late superbubble evolution, when the WR winds have essentially stopped and only SN inject intermittently their kinetic energy in the superbubble. However, we have shown here that during this period, the $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{CR}$ ratio is considerably lower than observed. In fact, under realistic conditions (some initial gas left, explosive yields also above $40 M_\odot$ considered, at least for some stars), the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio in a superbubble would never get to values as high as observed, contrary to claims made in the literature in the past decade. It must be stressed that this conclusion does not depend on detailed adopted yields, but on a simple argument, namely that the IMF averaged $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio in a superbubble has to be close to solar during the largest period of the superbubble lifetime.

5. Summary

In this work we explore some implications of the idea that cosmic rays are accelerated by the forward shock in supernova remnants, during their ST phase. We focus on the chemical composition resulting from such an acceleration and, in particular, on the $^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$ ratio, which is the most characteristic feature of the observed GCR source composition and is unaffected by atomic effects. For that purpose, we adopt recent models of the nucleosynthesis and evolution of massive stars with mass loss: those of LC06 with no rotation and those of HMM05 with rotation.

In Sec. 2 we present a detailed summary of the properties of those models and, in particular, of the chemical composition of their winds, insisting on the fact that rotating models release more ^{22}Ne in their winds than non-rotating ones. We also present the adopted model for the evolution of a SN remnant within a stellar wind, based on the ideas

of Ptuskin and Zirakashvili (2005) and the equations summarized in Caprioli (2011).

In the framework of the simple model adopted here, we follow the time-dependent composition of GCR, accelerated by the forward shock as it runs through either the ISM (in the case of stars with $M<25-35 M_\odot$, depending on rotation) or through the stellar wind (in the case of more massive stars). In fact, during the largest part of the ST phase, the shock runs through ISM and encounters a \sim solar composition. In order to reproduce the observed high value of $(^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne})_{CR}$ ($R_{Obs}=5.3\pm0.3$ in solar units) after accounting for the stellar IMF, we have then to assume that acceleration is efficient only during a short early period in the ST phase. We chose to use the shock velocity as a criterion for efficient acceleration and, based on the aforementioned CR composition argument, we find that shock velocities larger than ~ 1900 km/s (for the rotating stellar models) or 2400 km/s (for the non-rotating ones) are required. This result is obtained by assuming a step function for the efficiency f of particle acceleration ($f=0$ before the ST phase and after v_{min} , and $f=1$ between the two). For the - perhaps, more realistic - assumption of a velocity-dependent efficiency $f \propto v^2$, we find slightly lower values for v_{min} (1600 km/s for HMM05 yields and 2150 km/s for CL06 yields, respectively). In the framework of the adopted models, this corresponds to a circumstellar mass of several tens of M_\odot encountered by the forward shock. Assuming, furthermore, that 10% of the SN kinetic energy is used in acceleration of escaping cosmic rays with standard energy spectra, allows us to evaluate the efficiency of that acceleration: we find that a few particles out of a million encountered by the forward shock are accelerated to CR energies. We also notice that this scheme of GCR acceleration does not suffer from problems related to the absence of unstable ^{59}Ni in observed GCR composition: this heavy nucleus is well inside the SN ejecta and is not reached by the forward shock which accelerates only wind material and ISM.

The aforementioned scenario assumes that even the most massive stars, up to $120 M_\odot$, develop strong forward shocks and accelerate the particles of their WR winds. For non-rotating stars, this is a rather extreme assumption, since it has been argued (Heger et al. 2003) that non-rotating massive stars of about solar metallicity collapse into black holes, if their mass is in the $30-60 M_\odot$ range (see their Fig. 1). Notice that stars in the $60-120 M_\odot$ range (the most important ^{22}Ne producers) end as black holes in their scheme. However, for slightly higher metallicities - such as those encountered in the inner Galactic disk - they find that only neutron stars are formed, because higher stellar mass losses result in a less massive star at explosion. It should be noticed that the details of massive star explosions remain poorly understood at present (see e.g. Hanke et al. 2011) and so is the fate of a massive star above $30 M_\odot$ (see Fryer et al. 2011 for a recent - but certainly not definitive - assessment). The fate of the rotating mass losing stars considered here is even less well known.

In view of the aforementioned uncertainties, we feel that the scenario proposed here can be considered as valid at present, although future refinements in our understanding of massive star explosions may change it quantitatively (and even qualitatively, if it turns out that most massive stars above, say, $50 M_\odot$, end up as black holes).

Finally, we explore the idea that CR are accelerated in superbubbles, in which case their composition results from

the ejecta of both stellar winds and SN explosions. We first notice that simple nucleosynthesis arguments suggest that the resulting composition, averaged over the stellar IMF, should be very close to solar. We demonstrate this quantitatively, with a simple model for the evolving composition of a superbubble, enriched first by the (^{22}Ne rich) winds of the most massive stars, then by the (^{20}Ne rich) SN ejecta of less massive stars. We find that, after a few Myr the superbubble ($^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$)_{SB} ratio tends to solar, and so does the average ($^{22}\text{Ne}/^{20}\text{Ne}$)_{CR} ratio in accelerated particles. We conclude that superbubbles cannot provide the observed high R_{Obs} value of CR sources and, therefore, are not the main site of CR acceleration. On the contrary, SN remnants - including those expanding in the pre-explosion environment of a stellar wind - appear as suitable sites of GCR acceleration.

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